

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing an optical head in a read/write device comprising:  
positioning a light source with respect to an optical head substrate;  
positioning at least a first optical element along an optical path from said light source to an objective, said optical path defines at least a farthest virtual source point; and  
providing at least a first beamshaper in said optical path wherein a farthest virtual source point of said optical path after said first beamshaper is provided is substantially the same as said farthest virtual source point before said first beamshaper is provided, and wherein the beamshaper changes an ellipticity of a light beam transmitted by the light source along the optical path.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said beamshaper and said first optical element are positioned on a single integral optical element unit.
3. (Original) A method, as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first optical element is a non-beamshaper element.

Claims 4 through 7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) Optical head apparatus for use in a read/write device comprising:  
an optical head substrate;  
a light source positioned with respect to said optical head substrate;  
a first optical element positioned along an optical path from said light source to an objective; and  
a beamshaper in said optical path, wherein a virtual source point of said optical path when said beamshaper is provided is substantially the same as said virtual source point before said second optical element is provided, and wherein the beamshaper changes an ellipticity of a light beam transmitted by the light source along the optical path.
9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Cancelled)

11 (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said beamshaper and said first optical element are positioned on a single integral optical element unit.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus, as claimed in claim 8 wherein said first optical element is a non-beamshaper element.

Claims 13 through 15 . (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) Optical head apparatus for use in a read/write device comprising:  
an optical head substrate;  
a light source means for outputting light, positioned with respect to said optical head substrate;

a first optical means for modifying said light, positioned along an optical path from said light source means to an objective means; and

a beamshaper for modifying an ellipticity of said light, said beamshaper positioned in said optical path, wherein a value of a virtual source point of said optical path when said beamshaper is provided is substantially the same as a value of said virtual source point before said beamshaper is provided.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said first optical means and said beamshaper are positioned on a single integral optical element unit.

20. (Original) Apparatus, as claimed in claim 16 wherein said first optical means is a non-beamshaper element.

21. (cancelled)

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22. (cancelled)

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